STATE AUDITOR DOUG HOFFER

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: Contact Diane Hahn at 802.828.2281 or <u>diane.hahn@vermont.gov</u>. 21 May 2020

Hoffer announces new COVID-19 website

Vermont State Auditor Doug Hoffer today announced the creation of an online dashboard to help Vermonters track federal and state expenditures related to COVID-19. The online tool is <u>available here</u> and will evolve over time, as the situation progresses and information is updated.

In response to COVID-19, the federal government appropriated unprecedented levels of funding to the State of Vermont, its institutions, and directly to Vermonters. The State Auditor's Office created this webpage to help Vermonters follow the flow of these public dollars. As the Auditor's Office works to mitigate risks and guide the State in cost-effective directions, we will post graphics, memos, and other resources that can help us all better understand how this \$2 billion-plus is spent.

"Quickly disbursing funds aimed at mitigating this crisis while avoiding fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement is a critical but challenging task," Auditor Hoffer said. "Providing the public with a transparent accounting of how their money is spent and can be spent is critical to the success of this effort."

The dashboard provides an accounting of spending or planned spending as of May 19, 2020. It currently features data on expenditures concerning the State of Vermont, hospitals, Community Health Centers, higher education, and the U.S. Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program. Data related to other sectors of the economy will be published in the future.

"Since this crisis began, key members of my team and I have tracked how public dollars are spent on the monumental issues presented by this pandemic," Hoffer said. "Government accountability is necessary to ensure that this extraordinary disbursement of public funds is spent effectively and efficiently. As we conduct accountability exercises, we will seek to inform Vermonters of how their money is used to solve these problems."

For more information, contact us at 802.828.2281 or diane.hahn@vermont.gov